

MEMORANDUM

To: Leon County Board of County Commissioners
From: Patton Boggs LLP
Date: June 23, 2006
Subject: June Status Report

The following will provide you with an overview of our activities during the month of June 2006 on behalf of Leon County and other developments that impact the County.

Appropriations Process

Having failed to pass a joint Budget Resolution agreed to by both chambers, the House and the Senate are operating under an \$873 billion cap for discretionary spending, the same amount requested by Bush in his FY 2007 budget. The House has completed nine of the eleven FY 2007 appropriations bills. The remaining two – Science/State/Justice/Commerce, and Labor/HHS/Education – have already been approved by the Appropriations Committee and may be taken by the full House next week.

The Senate totals have not been released yet but they are expected to cut funds from the Defense bill while adding funds to the Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill. Senate appropriators already have begun working on some of their bills even without official allocations for all the subcommittees. Of particular interest to Leon County, the Energy and Water Subcommittee and the Interior and Environment Subcommittee will mark-up their respective bills on June 27.

Leon County's Appropriations Requests

Leon County received an allocation of \$250,000 in the House Transportation/Treasury/HUD appropriations bill for the Mahan Drive project. Patton Boggs is working with Senator Mel Martinez (R) and Senator Bill Nelson (D) and their staff, as well as with the professional staff of the relevant subcommittees, to (1) keep the funding for Mahan Drive and (2) include in the Senate bills the other four projects. Patton Boggs also continues to work with Representative F. Allen Boyd (D) who, as an appropriator, would either serve in or have some level of influence on the Conference Committee.

PATTON BOGGS LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

According to the House Appropriations Committee, earmarks are down as much as 70 percent this year, depending on the bill. The decline, according to the Committee, reflects the scarcity of funds across the federal budget including funding for member projects. Historically, the Senate has been more generous with earmarks. Normally, an earmark can be included at the Appropriations Committee level, either in the House or the Senate, or during Conference.

Legislative Monitoring

Patton Boggs continues to work with the staff of Representative Boyd and Representative Ander Crenshaw (R) on the Forest Service legislation. Representative Crenshaw is getting ready to re-introduce the bill perhaps as early as next week. The "new" bill will order the Forest Service to use the money from the sale of unimproved property to purchase new unimproved property. However, if the property has been improved in any way, the Forest Service can use the proceeds from the sale for administrative purposes. It is expected that the new bill will please all sides of the issue. Patton Boggs is also working with the staff of Senator Martinez and Senator Nelson on the Forest Service legislation for them to introduce their own version of the bill as soon as possible.

In addition, Patton Boggs continues to monitor legislative developments of interest to the County. We provide updates to County staff as needed.

Grant Opportunities

Approximately every ten days, Patton Boggs reports on new grant opportunities, both Federal and private.

Please let us know if we can provide any further detail on the issues discussed in this memorandum.